

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS
CORRECTIONS SERVICES**

Policy :
No. B.8.4

15 October 1999

**INMATE CLASSIFICATION, SENTENCING, AND SERVICE FUNCTIONS
Inmate Related Services
Religious or Faith-Based Programs and Services**

1. **AUTHORITY:** Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections as contained in Chapter 9 of Title 36 and La. R. S. 15:828.2.
2. **REFERENCES:** ACA Standards 2-CO-5E-01 (Administration of Correctional Agencies), 3-4456, 3-4458, 3-4459, 3-4462 and 3-4463 (Adult Correctional Institutions) and 3-JTS-5G-01, 5G-03, 5G-05 (Juvenile Training Schools).
3. **PURPOSE:** To establish the Secretary's policy regarding religious or faith-based programs and services for the inmate population.
4. **APPLICABILITY:** Undersecretary, Assistant Secretaries and all Wardens.
5. **POLICY:** It is the Secretary's policy that all inmates be given the opportunity to practice their faith on a voluntary basis, limited only when necessary to accommodate other legitimate institutional interests.
6. **PROCEDURES:**
 - A. Religious or faith-based programs shall be established in conformity with ACA standard requirements. Such programs should have the potential to facilitate inmate institutional adjustment, help inmates assume personal responsibility and to reduce recidivism. Each Warden shall develop procedures for religious or faith-based programming to meet the needs of their inmate population to include:
 - Program coordination and supervision and the use of community religious resources (i.e., lay and clergy volunteers, equipment and donations of religious materials);
 - Specific areas to conduct religious or faith-based programs and services;
 - Availability of adequate religious aids, equipment and materials.
 - B. Each unit should recruit and strive to maintain an adequate number of volunteers to minister to its inmates. Community linkages should be developed with churches, synagogues, mosques and other faith-based institutions to enhance the services offered to inmates and to better prepare them spiritually for a productive life.

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- C. The Office of Information Services (OIS) shall develop a mechanism to measure recidivism rates for all inmates participating in religious or faith-based programs. Each institution will report to OIS, for every inmate released, whether or not the inmate participated on a regular basis in religious programming for a period of at least six months immediately prior to release. The definition of "regular participation" may vary by institution, (availability of programs), or by denomination but should generally reflect regular program attendance for a sustained period which must include the last six months prior to release.



Richard L. Stalder
Secretary

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This regulation supersedes Department Regulation No. B-08-005 "Religious Programs and Services" dated 15 October 1998.